

Progress Report

To: **Natalia Deardorff**, Department of Water Resources

From: Robert Stein, City of Newport Beach

Re: Integrated Regional Water Management Plan – Newport Bay and
Watershed Management Program
DWR Agreement Number 46-0000-4498
Progress Report for July 1 to October 31, 2006

Date: November 21, 2006

Program Status

Very good progress has been made in the past period on a number of fronts. This report summarizes important activities performed in this period. A more formal report will follow that will list all tasks and the estimated percent complete for each task.

Firstly, three consultants have been hired to help City staff with some of the initial tasks:

- Larry Paul and Associates.
- Expression Graphics
- Brown & Caldwell (contact pending)

Larry Paul is assisting the City is obtaining existing studies, setting up and attending agency meetings and assisting with development a concept management plan for the lower harbor.

Expression Graphics has begun work on the website dedicated to this program and is researching other website with information on the Newport Bay watershed.

Krista Sloniowski (Brown & Caldwell) previously worked on a draft watershed management plan for Newport Bay and San Diego Creek for the Army Corps of Engineers and will assist the City to rapidly prepare a scope of work that will be used to hire a consultant to assist the City in preparing an integrated watershed management plan.

Task 2.4.2.1 Review Existing Studies and Programs

The City has obtained excellent materials from the Corps of Engineers and County of Orange that can be readily incorporated into the management plan for the watershed.

Task 2.4.2.2 Survey of Local Planning Efforts

The City has had preliminary meetings with the County of Orange RDMD, Irvine Ranch Water District, and University of California – Irvine to discuss ongoing studies and program and to review the City's scope of work under this DWR grant. A follow up meeting with the County is scheduled for November 27th to discuss how a pilot study could be initiated as a complementary step toward developing the strategic plan. A meeting has been scheduled with the Regional Water Quality Control Board on December 6th. Meetings are also anticipated with the Cities of Irvine, Tustin, Costa Mesa and Lake Forest, the Army Corps of Engineers and California Department of Fish and Game.

Task 2.4.2.7 Web Site Development

Expression Graphics has developed a Home Page for the Watershed Management Program as well as an outline for the site. I've decided to hold off on launching the site until I have a little more information on existing programs.

Task 2.4.3.1 Lower Newport Bay Management Plan

Tom Rossmiller, the City's Harbor Resources Manager, and Larry Paul are formulating a concept management plan.

Task 2.4.3.3 – San Diego Creek Watershed Strategic Plan

Based on an excellent watershed management draft report prepared by the Corps of Engineers and the County of Orange, a meeting is planned with the County to discuss how to extend this effort into a strategic plan for the watershed.

Budget

Two consultant contracts totaling \$50,000 have been executed. A third contract for \$25,000 (with Brown & Caldwell) is in the process of being executed.

Schedule

While very good progress has been made, the schedule that was prepared on July 5, 2006 needs to be modified somewhat. The modified schedule will be submitted with the more detailed progress report by December 6th.